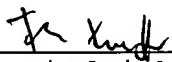


As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been amended to remove improper claim language.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

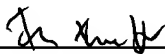
Respectfully submitted,

FK:ml  
January 24, 2001  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

  
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Friedrich Kueffner